

1959

E

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

GENERAL

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1821/23

FROM Lehancy,
Baghdad

CONFIDENTIAL

No. 1011/14/59

Dated 30/4

Received in
Registry— 2/5

Kurds.

Arrival of Soviet Ship
"Gruzia" at Basra
carrying 820 Kurds.

182

References to former relevant papers

ECF 1192/102 - 12
ECF 10338/9

MINUTES

pp still circulating.

It is interesting to see that the Kurds
stayed only for 2 hours in Baghdad before
going to the Erbil area. The probability is
that the recent troubles there have not been
unconnected with their arrival.

(Print)

Mohammed
11/5

(How disposed of)

FORD (M) 13.5

MSE,
11/5

With reference to the extract from
al-Manar enclosed with this letter, I feel that
"vultures", though felicitous in its application
to Kurds, must be a mistranslation of
"نور", commonly used in this kind of
laudatory Arabic & meaning "eagles".

(Action
completed)

(Index)

17.
3
61.

References to later relevant papers

A. Scotsman

M4899 52683-1

FORD (M) 10.6 MSB 6/6

7 May

MSE,
22/5

13.5.59.



CONFIDENTIAL

BRITISH EMBASSY,
BAGHDAD.

April 30, 1959.

(1011/14/59)

Dear Department,

FE 1122/102

As reported in Basra telegram No. 53 of April 17 to ourselves, the Soviet ship "Gruzia" arrived at Basra on April 16 carrying Barazani Kurds repatriated from the Soviet Union. According to a Russian news report the "Gruzia" left Odessa on April 2 carrying 820 Kurds (460 men, 108 women and 252 children) together with three members of the Soviet Red Cross.

2. The repatriates were given a tremendous welcome organised by the Basra Communists who succeeded in entirely closing the suq to ensure the largest possible turnout. We enclose translations of notices issued by them for the occasion. Mulla Mustafa Barazani, who arrived in Basra from Baghdad the previous day and was himself enthusiastically greeted, went downriver almost to Khorramshahr to meet the "Gruzia". His boat was accompanied by scores of heavily laden launches and on the return journey the flotilla was further escorted by two ships of the River Force.

3. The reception committee which met the Kurds and saw them off from the railway station included a representative of "the leadership of the Communist Party in Baghdad", one Hamza Salman of whom we had not previously heard. He and Mulla Mustafa made speeches of welcome, thanking the Soviet Union for their kindness to the Kurds. There was also an unreported speech by Hamza Abdallah, described as a representative of the United Democratic Party of Kurdistan.

4. A special train took the Kurds to Baghdad from where they went on to Erbil after only a two-hour pause. According to the Arabic press they have been temporarily accommodated in the summer resorts of Shaqlawa and Salahuddin. They have dropped out of the news since their arrival in the North.

5. We were interested to see the reports in Kabul Chancery letter (10621/59) of April 6 and Teheran Chancery letter (1821/59) of April 16 about the repatriation of this party. We have no confirmation that the Kurds have been specially trained; but we can well believe that they are indoctrinated. Some of them, in an interview with Baghdad Radio, spoke warmly of the Soviet Union's generosity in admitting them to schools, colleges and factories.

6. The Iraqi press and radio indignantly denied the United Arab Republic's allegations that the men were well-armed and highly trained

/Kurdish

Eastern Department,
Foreign Office,
London, S.W.1.

CONFIDENTIAL

*not enclosed, but included in
the Moscow file*

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--- Kurdish guerrillas who were to form part of a Communist army in Iraq. We enclose the text of a Tass statement on the subject which was published in the Baghdad press of April 15. So far as the Consulate General at Basra could judge, the composition and demeanour of the party accorded far better with the Russian than with the United Arab Republic description.

We are sending copies of this letter and its enclosures to the Chanceries at Ankara, Beirut, Kabul, Moscow and Teheran.

Yours ever,

CHANCERY.

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TRANSLATION FROM 'AL-MANAR' OF APRIL 16, 1959

Notice issued by the Liaison Committee of democratic and social organisations
in Basra

" Tomorrow there will arrive in our heroic city some of our brothers, Kurds from the North, brothers who fought oppression in the defunct regime and were forced, under black terror at that time to leave our beloved Iraq and take refuge in the friend of the peoples, the great Soviet Union.

Masses! We call upon you to receive the vultures of the north, the vultures of the lofty mountains and the heroes of the glorious Barazan revolt. They have come to carry on the struggle on behalf of our democratic Republic, the Republic of the Arabs and Kurds.

" Long live the partisan of peace, the great Soviet Union.

" Long live the brotherhood of Kurd and Arab.

" Long live our heroic democratic Republic.

" Long live the Leader of the Arabs and the Kurds, Abd Al Kerim Qassim."

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TRANSLATION FROM 'AL-BASRA' OF APRIL 16

Notice issued by the founding body of the Greengrocers Society in Basra

" Heroic Masses struggling for freedom and peace!

" Sons of the Port of the Republic!

" In a few days, there will arrive in our heroic city brothers of ours in the struggle, brothers of ours in the protection of the gains of July 14, brothers of ours whom the defunct royal imperialistic regime persecuted and routed, to be taken to its bosom by the Soviet Union, the great friend of our people. Now behold them coming back to Iraq, their country, now that freedom has returned with the Revolution of the people and army under the leadership of the son of the people, Abd Al Kerim Qassim on the glorious July 14. Noble masses! We consider that duty calls us to take part in the reception of the violent Kurdish Barazani strugglers, and we have decided to close our shops and places of business to take part in the reception procession. We ask you to fetch what you need of groceries, fruit and vegetable before the reception day, which will be announced in due course.

" Long live Arab Kurdish brotherhood.

" Long live the Iraqi Republic, the Republic of Kurd and Arab.

" Long live the noble one of the people, Abd Al Kerim Qassim."

Pamphlet distributed in the souk on April 15 by the Local Committee of
the Iraqi Communist Party in Basra

" Welcome to our brothers, the heroic Barazanis!

" During the next two days there will arrive in our city, returning to their country, our brothers the Barazanis, who have spent more than ten years outside the country as the guests of the Soviet Union, who gave them shelter and honoured them all these long years, so that they became as if in their own country.

" The Barazani movement is a link in the chain of the struggle of the Iraqi people against the imperialist occupiers and their beasts of burden who hastened to suppress every patriotic movement with the utmost harshness and brutality. The imperialists and their agents made our brothers, the Barazanis, taste all manner of tyranny, and they annihilated their young men and old men, their children and their women, and put to flight the remainder, who managed to find safety for themselves under the protection of the Soviet Union, which was the only neighbouring country which permitted them to enter its territory, since three countries were after them, Turkey, Iran and Iraq.

" The glorious July Revolution has brought back their rights in their entirety to the citizens, has freed those in prison and brought back the exiles: now it crowns its work by bringing back the Barazani emigrants to their country, loved and honoured amongst their people and their brothers.

" The local committee of the Iraqi Communist Party in Basra, whilst praising the noble attitude of the Soviet Union, warmly welcomes the Barazani brothers, and calls on the masses and all organisations to show appropriate hospitality to the violent strugglers, who sacrificed all they possessed for the sake of their people and nation.

" Long live the partisan of Democracy, Abd Al Kerim Qassim!

" Long live Arab Kurdish brotherhood!

" Long live the Soviet Union, the faithful friend of all peoples!"

RECEIVED IN
ARCHIVES

24 MAY 1959

SCOTSMAN

7 MAY 1959

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P/W E

KURDISH CULTURE

Development by Soviets

New evidence of intensified efforts to develop the national culture of the Soviet Kurds comes from the Soviet publication "Kommunist." It also admits that this is being done specifically with a view to interesting the Kurds who live abroad. Most are in Turkey, Syria, Iraq and Persia. The new developments, "Kommunist" reveals, are "the resumption of publication of the newspaper 'Rya Taza' and the organisation in Erevan (Soviet Armenia) for radio broadcasts in the Kurdish language. The work of Kurdish writers has also been revived.

"Five collections of the works of Soviet Kurdish writers have been published. . . . Considerable work has also been done in the field of research and publication of Kurdish people's art. . . . Literary skill is very important and has great significance for Kurdish writers. Foreign Kurds also read our works."

At a scientific session held in the Soviet Academy of Sciences in Baku on March 2 a paper was read on the "Struggle of the Kurdish People for National Independence." The session celebrated the setting up a year ago in the academy of an Institute of Eastern Studies.

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